DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the communication filed on 10/20/2009.
- The amendments received on 10/20/2009 have been entered and made of record.
- Claims 1-26 are pending in the current application.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/20/2009, with respect to the previously cited prior art references and the amended independent claims, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the previous rejections of Claims 1-26 have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection are made in view of Ayling et al. (US Patent 6,816,281 B1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahasi et al. (US Patent 6,424,429 B1) in view of Ayling et al. (US Patent 6,816,281 B1).

4. Regarding **Claims 1, 17 and 19**, Takahashi discloses an image forming apparatus (see Fig.1 and Col.1, Line 6-11), comprising: an input device for receiving image data as an input

(see Fig.1 (11), Fig.4 (11) and Col.10, Line 43-52); a transfer portion for transferring the image data received by the input unit to an image memory of a memory-incorporating apparatus connected to the input device via network (see Fig.1 (11,13,16), Fig.2 (24), Col.9, Line 9-23 and Col.11, Line 35-51); a reception portion for receiving the image data stored in the image memory in accordance with a processing signal (see Fig.1 (11,16), Fig.2 (24,25) and Col.11, Line 35-59) and a printing device for forming an image with use of the image data received by the reception portion (see Fig.1 (11) and Col.10, Line 43-52).

5. Takahasi fails to disclose a memory recall key for generating a memory recall signal; and wherein the reception portion receives the image data in accordance with the memory recall signal. Takahashi, however, teaches receiving and printing the document data transferred from the memory-incorporating apparatus (see Fig.1 (11,PC14) and Col.11, Line 28-42). Ayling discloses a function recall key for transferring image data from a storage portion to a working memory for processing (see Fig.1 (46), Fitg.3 (P5,104), Fig.4 (P5,104), Col.2, Line 30-44, Col.3, Line 23-40 and Col.4, Line 56-60).

6. Takahashi and Ayling are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image data processing apparatuses. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to Takakashi's image forming apparatus a memory recall key for transferring stored image data to the reception portion for processing. The motivation would be to process previously stored image data. The memory recall key would enable for stored image data to be retrieved from a storage unit (memory-incorporating apparatus), and processed at the image forming device.

7. Regarding **Claims 2 and 10**, Takahashi further discloses a retrieval portion for retrieving the image data in the memory of the memory-incorporating apparatus connected to the network (see Fig.1 (11,16), Fig.2 (24,25) and Col.11, Line 43-59).

8. Regarding **Claims 3 and 11**, Takahashi further discloses wherein the transfer portion transfers the image data to the image memory of the memory-incorporating apparatus retrieved by the retrieval portion (see Fig.1 (11), Fig.2 (24,25), Col.9, Line 36-47 and Col.10, Line 43-52).

9. Regarding **Claims 5 and 13**, Takahashi further discloses a transfer instruction device for inputting a data transfer instruction in response to operation by a user (see Fig.3 (23b,23c,23d and Col.9, Line 24-33), wherein the retrieval portion retrieves the image data in the memory of the memory-incorporating apparatus when the data transfer instruction is inputted (see Fig.1 (11,16), Fig.2 (24,25) and Col.11, Line 43-59).

10. Regarding **Claims 6 and 14**, Takahashi further discloses wherein the memory recall key is displayed on a display device (see Fig.3 (23f) and Col.9, Line 24-33).

11. Regarding **Claims 8 and 16**, Takahashi further discloses wherein the memory recall key is displayed on the display device during or after the image forming operation by the printing device with use of the image data inputted by the input device (see Fig.3 (23f) and Col.9, Line 24-33).

12. Regarding **Claims 9, 18 and 20**, Takahashi discloses an image forming apparatus (see Fig.1 and Col.1, Line 6-11), comprising: a reading device for creating image data by reading an image document (see Fig.1 (11), Fig.2 (26) and Col.9, Line 9-23); a printing device for forming a copy of the image document on a sheet of paper based on the image data held in the buffer (see

Fig.1 (11), Fig.2 (27) and Col.10, Line 43-52); a transfer portion for transferring the stored image data to the image memory of a memory-incorporating apparatus connected to a network (see Fig.1 (11,13,16), Fig.2 (24), Col.8, Line 61 - Col.9, Line 8 and Col.11, Line 35-59); a reception portion for receiving the image data stored in the image memory in accordance with a processing signal (see Fig.1 (11,16), Fig.2 (24,25) and Col.11, Line 43-59); and a control unit for controlling the printing device which forms an image with use of the image data received by the reception portion (see Fig. 1 (11), Fig.2 (21,27) and Col. 10, Line 43-52).

13. Takahasi fails to disclose a memory recall key for generating a memory recall signal; and wherein the reception portion receives the image data in accordance with the memory recall signal. Takahashi, however, teaches receiving and printing the document data transferred from the memory-incorporating apparatus (see Fig.1 (11,PC14) and Col.11, Line 28-42). Ayling discloses a function recall key for transferring image data from a storage portion to a working memory for processing (see Fig.1 (46), Fitg.3 (P5,104), Fig.4 (P5,104), Col.2, Line 30-44, Col.3, Line 23-40 and Col.4, Line 56-60).

14. Takahashi and Ayling are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image data processing apparatuses. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to Takakashi's image forming apparatus a memory recall key for transferring stored image data to the reception portion for processing. The motivation would be to process previously stored image data. The memory recall key would enable for stored image data to be retrieved from a storage unit (memory-incorporating apparatus), and processed at the image forming device.

15. Claims 4, 7, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahasi et al. (US Patent 6,424,429 B1) in view of Ayling et al. (US Patent 6,816,281 B1), and in further view of Nishiyama et al. (US Patent 6,067,168).

16. Regarding **Claims 4 and 12**, Takahashi and Ayling teach the image forming apparatus of Claims 1 and 9 but they fail to disclose a warning device for informing a user that the retrieval portion cannot identify a memory-incorporating apparatus. Takahashi, however, teaches using a graphical user interface for communicating with the memory-incorporating apparatus (see Fig.3 and Col.9, Line 24-33). Nishiyama discloses an image forming apparatus that includes a warning device for displaying a message informing a user the presence of an external memory-incorporating device (see Fig. 16 ($37), Fig.17a (121a) and Col. 18, Line 43-49).

17. Takahashi, Ayling and Nishiyama are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image data processing apparatuses. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to Takahashi's image forming apparatus a warning device for informing a user that the retrieval portion cannot identify a memory-incorporating apparatus. The motivation would be to notify a user that an external memory-incorporating device is not present for image transferring.

18. Regarding **Claims 7 and 15**, Takahashi and Ayling teach the image forming apparatus of Claims 1 and 9 but they fail to disclose wherein the memory recall key is displayed when the retrieval portion identifies a memory-incorporated apparatus, whereas the memory recall key is not displayed when the retrieval portion cannot identify a memory-incorporated apparatus. Takahashi, however, teaches using a graphical user interface for communicating with the memory-incorporating apparatus (see Fig.3 and Col.9, Line 24-33). Nishiyama discloses an

image forming apparatus that includes a warning device for displaying a message informing a user the presence of an external device (see Fig.16 ($37), Fig.17a (121a) and Co1.18, Line 43-49). Nishiyama further teaches using a user interface to identify an external memory-incorporating device (see Fig.8a and Col. 11, Line 7-12), and determining whether the memory-incorporating device is able or unable to store the image data upon request (see Fig.27 (118) and Col.32, Line 47-55).

19. Takahashi, Ayling and Nishiyama are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image data processing apparatuses. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to Takahashi image forming apparatus a means for displaying the memory recall key when the retrieval portion identifies a memory-incorporated apparatus, and not displaying the memory recall key when the retrieval portion cannot identify a memory-incorporated apparatus. The motivation would be to enable the user to determine whether or not an external memory- incorporating device is available for image transferring.

20. Claims 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahasi et al. (US Patent 6,424,429 B 1) in view of Ayling et al. (US Patent 6,816,281 B1), and in further view of Anai (US Patent 5,663,800).

21. Regarding **Claims 21, 23 and 25**, Takahasi and Ayling teach the image forming apparatus as described in Claim 1 but they fail to disclose wherein the image forming apparatus does not have an image memory. Takahashi, however, discloses transferring the image data to an external memory-incorporated device for data storage and backup (see Fig.1 (11,13,16) and Col.8, Line 61 - Col.9, Line 8), and teaches that retrieving the stored image data from the

external memory- incorporated device whenever required enables easy retrieval of image data without requiring complicated operations (see Col.2, Line 19-36). Anai discloses an image forming apparatus that does not have an image memory (see Fig.3 and Col.2, Line 7-22), and teaches that a no-memory image forming apparatus would enable for the image data to be immediately processed at the image forming apparatus without complicated image data conversions (see Col.2, Line 7-22).

22. Takahashi, Ayling and Anai are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image data processing apparatuses. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use an image forming apparatus that does not have an image memory. The motivation would be to increase the image processing efficiency. The a no-memory image forming apparatus would enable for the image data to be immediately processed at the image forming apparatus, without complicated image data conversions (as taught by Anai).

23. Regarding **Claims 22, 24 and 26**, Takahasi and Ayling teach the image forming apparatus as described in Claim 9 but they fail to disclose wherein the image forming apparatus does not have an image memory. Takahashi, however, discloses transferring the image data to an external memory-incorporated device for data storage and backup (see Fig.1 (11,13,16) and Col.8, Line 61 - Col.9, Line 8), and teaches that retrieving the stored image data from the external memory- incorporated device whenever required enables easy retrieval of image data without requiring complicated operations (see Col.2, Line 19-36). Anai discloses an image forming apparatus that does not have an image memory (see Fig.3 and Col.2, Line 7-22), and teaches that a no-memory image forming apparatus would enable for the image data to be

immediately processed at the image forming apparatus without complicated image data conversions (see Col.2, Line 7-22).

24. Takahashi, Ayling and Anai are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image data processing apparatuses. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use an image forming apparatus that does not have an image memory. The motivation would be to increase the image processing efficiency. The a no-memory image forming apparatus would enable for the image data to be immediately processed at the image forming apparatus, without complicated image data conversions (as taught by Anai).

Conclusion

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu B. Hang whose telephone number is (571)272-0582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vu B. Hang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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